	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	09/432,113	SAITOU, NOBUHIRO
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Chante Harrison	2675	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *RCe 2/10/05 and Preliminary Amendment 2/16/05* .

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-16 and 18-20*.

3. ☒ The drawings filed on *02 November 1999* are accepted by the Examiner.

4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☒ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None   of the:

      1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1.   Claims 1-16 and 18-20 are allowed.

2.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicant claims continuously interactively moving a displayed object relative to a graph and determining when the moving object overlaps a displayed connector that connects other existing objects in the graph (claim 5) which is not disclosed by the prior art of record. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Richard Gollhofer on April 26, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A graphic editing apparatus, comprising:

a display unit displaying a graphic including a first object and a second object which are connected with each other using a first connector, where the first object, second object, and first connector are all displayed on a display screen; and

an interactive graphical editing unit judging movement of a third object while the user is interactively **continuously** moving the third object on the display relative to the graphic and automatically designating the first connector when it is judged that the moving third object comes to overlap the first connector after the first object, second object, and first connector have been displayed, and in response to the automatic designating automatically creating and displaying a second connector for connecting the displayed first object and the third object and a third connector for connecting the displayed third object and the second object.

8. (Currently Amended) A graphic editing apparatus, comprising:

a display unit displaying a graphic comprising a first object, a plurality of second objects and a plurality of first connectors for connecting the first object and the plurality of second objects, where the first object, the plurality of second objects, and the plurality of first connectors are all displayed on a display screen; and

an interactive graphical editing unit judging movement of a third object while the user is interactively continuously moving the third object on the display relative to the graphic and automatically selecting two or more of the plurality of first connectors when it is judged that the third object has moved into proximity of the two or more connectors **and overlapping at least one of the two or more connectors**, and in response the two or more connectors are selected by a two-dimensional movement relative to the plurality of first connectors after the first object, the plurality of second objects, and the plurality of first connectors have been displayed, and in

response to the selecting automatically creating and displaying a second connector for connecting the displayed first object and the third object, and two or more third connectors for connecting two or more of the displayed second objects connected to the interactively selected first connector and the third object.

9. (Currently Amended) A graphic editing method, comprising:

displaying a graphic including a first object and a second object which are connected with each other using a first connector, where the first object, second object, and first connector are all displayed on a display screen; and

judging movement of a third object while it is interactively moving on the display screen relative to the graphic by a continuous two-dimensional movement and when it is judged that the third object has been so moved to a predetermined **overlapping** position in relation to the first connector after the first object, second object, and first connecter have been displayed, and in response automatically creating and displaying a second connector for newly connecting the displayed first object and the third object and a third connector for newly connecting the third object and the second object.

10. (Currently Amended) A graphic editing method, comprising:

displaying a graph including a first object and a second object which are connected with each other using a first connector, where the first object, the second object, and the first connector are all displayed on a display screen; and

after the first object, second object, and first connecter have been displayed, judging a user's continuous interactive two-dimensional movement input **of a third object** to determine when during the movement the movement **third object** overlaps the first connector, and in response to the determining automatically designating or selecting the first connector as an insertion target by automatically inserting a **the** third object by creating and displaying a second

connector for connecting the first object and the third object and a third connector for connecting the third object and the second object.

11. (Currently Amended) A storage medium on which a program enabling a computer to execute a process is stored, the process comprising:

displaying, by a graphic editing tool, a graphic including a first object and a second object which are connected with each other using a first connector, where the first object, the second object, and the first connector are all displayed on a display screen; and

while the first object, second object, and first connecter are being displayed, judging a user's **continuous** interactive moving of a third object during display of the interactive movement and automatically selecting or designating the first connector when it is judged that the third object has been so interactively placed by the movement to a predetermined position overlapping the first connector, and in response inserting the third object by creating and displaying a second connector for connecting the displayed first object and the third object and a third connector for connecting the third object and the second object.

12. (Currently Amended) A storage medium on which a program enabling a computer to execute a process is stored, the process comprising:

displaying a graph including a first object and a second object which are connected with each other using a first connector, where the first object, the second object, and the first connector are all displayed on a display screen; and

while the first object, second object, and first connecter are being displayed, judging a user's interactive continuous two-dimensional movement **of a third object** and when during the movement it is judged that the movement **third object** overlaps the first connector automatically treating the first connector as a selected target for insertion by automatically inserting a **the** third

object by creating and displaying a second connector for connecting the displayed first object and the third object and a third connector for connecting the displayed third object and the second object.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of interactively graphically inserting a node into a displayed graph comprising displayed nodes and connectors graphically connecting the nodes, said method comprising:

interactively designating a displayed first connection in the displayed graph, by comparing a position of the first connection with positions of an insertion node or representation thereof as the insertion node or representation thereof is being displayed while being continuously moved by the input device, where **when the insertion node or representation thereof overlaps** the displayed first connection **which** visually connects a first displayed node and a second displayed node of the displayed graph; and

responsive to said interactive designating, automatically inserting the insertion node into the displayed graph by automatically displaying a second connection to newly connect the insertion node to the displayed first node, and by automatically displaying a third connection to newly connect the insertion node to the displayed second node.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of displaying on a display, comprising:

displaying first and second graphical nodes and displaying a first graphical line graphically connecting the first and second graphical nodes;

while said displaying, interactively designating the first displayed line as a target for insertion by judging the dragging of a new node graphic and designating or selecting the first displayed line when the it is judged that the new node is dragged over or near **to a position overlapping** the first displayed line; and

in response to said interactive designating automatically: undisplaying the selected first line, displaying a new first line and a new second line graphically connecting the new graphical node to the first and second graphical nodes.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of inserting interactively and graphically connecting a node to a displayed graph, comprising:

displaying the graph;

dragging a graphic node to change a location of the graphic node relative to the displayed graph; and

during the dragging judging the dragging and when it is judged that the location of the graphic node comes into ~~proximity with~~ **a position overlapping** a connector connected to an existing node in the graph, automatically treating the connector as an insertion target designated by the dragging by displaying a graph connector newly visually connecting the graphic node to the existing node.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chante Harrison whose telephone number is 571-272-7659. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sumati Lefkowitz can be reached on 571-272-3638. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Chante Harrison
Examiner
Art Unit 2675

Ceh
May 2, 2005

SUMATI LEFKOWITZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER